

BTB Partnership members biographies

Chair

John Cross

John farms a mixed livestock and arable enterprise in Norfolk. He has spent many years in key industry leadership positions.

Current roles

- member of the SAC Commercial Ltd board at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), since 2015
- chair of Livestock Information Ltd to steer the creation of the new Livestock Information Service (LIS), having been a key member of the Livestock Information Programme Traceability Design User Group (TDUG)

Previous roles

- chair of the English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX)
- member of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) and its audit committee
- chair of the NFU's Animal Health and Welfare Committee
- chair of the Bovine TB Eradication Advisory Group for England (TBEAG)

Members

Paul Westaway (High Risk Area)

Paul has been a tenant farmer of a Gloucestershire County Council farm on the Gloucestershire and Herefordshire border since 2006, with herds of Aberdeen Angus and Murray Greys, producing elite breeding bulls and heifers for other farmers. He won the beef farmer of the year at the British Farming Awards in 2013.

Paul is also the Global Business Development Director at Allflex and MSD Animal Health with the overall aim of ensuring knowledge transfer and making technology work for farmers all over the world. He has also worked in sales, product and marketing in the beef and dairy sector.

Current roles

- chair of the Gloucestershire Tenant Farmers Association
- chair and trustee of Innovation for Agriculture
- trustee of RASE
- trustee of Innovation Center at Hartpury University
- council member of Royal Three Counties Show Society

Previous roles

- council member and livestock committee member for the Royal Three Counties show
- chair and board member of the ADHB Beef and Lamb research and development committee
- chair of the National Beef Association

Chris Addison (Low Risk Area)

Chris owns a 600 acre organic farm, with 160 dairy cows plus followers and 200 beef cattle. Involved in Environmental Stewardship schemes for 22 years. Has experience of combating TB in a low risk area of Cumbria. Member of the National Beef Association's TB Liaison committee member and co-director of Cumbria's cull company.

He has been active in Cumbria's Country Land and Business Association for many years as a member and as a chair, and also a member of the CLA National Policy Committee.

Professor Rosie Woodroffe

Rosie is a professor at the Institute of Zoology London and visiting Professor at Imperial College London. An award-winning ecologist working extensively on the ecology of badgers and bovine TB. She has worked on both badger culling and badger vaccinations. She has also published a host of bTB related publications.

Current roles

- member of the Cornwall TB Eradication Group

Previous roles

- member of an independent scientific group looking at TB in cattle for Defra.
- advisor to an independent scientific review of bTB in cattle and badgers for Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF)

Professor Gareth Enticott

Gareth is Professor of Human Geography at Cardiff University. He uses social research methods to understand the social dimensions to bovine TB. This includes researching the social impacts of bTB to farmers' and vets', the decisions they take in response to disease outbreaks, and their responses to new policies. His research on bTB has been in England and Wales, and New Zealand.

Current roles

- member of the technical advisory group for the TB Advisory Service

Previous roles

- Bovine Tuberculosis Research Fellow for the National Assembly for Wales Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Professor James Wood

James is a veterinary epidemiologist and Alborada Professor of Equine and Farm Animal Science in the University of Cambridge's Department of Veterinary Medicine. He conducts multidisciplinary research on infectious diseases and his research interests are focussed on infectious disease emergence, including from wildlife.

James's research activities include collaborative studies of the control of bovine tuberculosis.

Previous roles

- member of TBEG
- member of Defra's Science Advisory Council and chair of its Exotic Disease sub- group
- dean of the University of Cambridge's veterinary school
- member of the Godfray Review team

Dr Jane Gibbens

Jane is a veterinarian and an epidemiologist with over 25 years' experience in Defra/APHA both supporting veterinary policy making and development, and in the design, implementation and analysis of disease surveillance and control protocols in the UK, including for bTB. She was a co-founder, course organiser, committee member, examiner and lecturer on the MSc Veterinary Epidemiology course run by the Royal Veterinary College from 1999 to 2018, and provided training on veterinary epidemiology and risk assessment to field vets during her time in Defra. She now works as an independent consultant.

Current roles

- member of the bTB Tuberculosis Partnership managed by Defra.
- member of the Food Standards Agency advisory committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)
- council member of the Association of Government Veterinarians, a specialist Division of the British Veterinary Association

Previous roles

- head of the bTB Epidemiology Assessment Centre
- head of the APHA Epidemiology and Risk Group
- head of Defra's National Emergency Epidemiology Group
- chair of the UK Veterinary Risk Group

Professor Rowland Kao

Rowland is the chair of Veterinary Epidemiology and Data Science at Edinburgh University. A mathematical population biologist, who has studied bTB epidemiology for over 20 years. He is a well published author on bTB, collaborating with other scientific disciplines, veterinarians, historians and the farming industry.

Has worked with APHA on numerous occasions, including on the recent emergence of badger TB in East Cumbria and through leading a national bTB modelling consortium.

Current roles

- director of Modelling of infections in Livestock (ModIL) Consortium
- chair of Defra's Exotic and Emergent Diseases Committee, a sub-committee of SAC

Previous Roles

- member of the UK Research and Innovation's COVID-19 panel of experts
- member of Defra's Science Advisory Council

Sarah Tomlinson

Sarah is a farm vet with over 22 years experience in clinical practice. She is the Technical Director of the TB Advisory Service (TBAS), a Defra funded project delivering bespoke TB biosecurity advice to livestock keepers across England, through private vets. Throughout her career she has been passionate about improving livestock health and productivity by reducing the risk and impact of endemic disease, including bovine TB, more recently has developed a keen interest in social science especially around human behaviour and achieving change on farm.

Current roles

- A member of the Government stakeholder group the bTB Partnership and
- has been a British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) board director for 4 years.
- A trustee for the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABDF).
- Sits on the National Beef Association (NBA) board.

Previous roles

- member of TBEAG

Kate Bowen

Kate is a Veterinary Director of UK Farmcare Ltd, Staffordshire. She has experience of providing veterinary input and technical oversight for contracts with government's and other organisations relating to bTB and wider animal health surveillance. She is a qualified Cymorth TB advisor for Wales providing advice on bovine TB control to cattle keepers.

UK Farmcare Ltd provides the main contract to Defra for the provision of a fully managed service for delivery of tuberculin testing and supply of veterinary services to the government in England and Wales.

They also hold other contracts directly with Defra including:

- the provision of bTB biosecurity teaching and training materials
- removal of TB reactor animals from farm
- dead wild bird collection services
- an innovative TB diagnostics research project (with Edinburgh University)

Dr Lindsay Heasman

Lindsay is a Director of Hurst Animal Health Ltd, an independent animal health consultancy business, with a particular interest in the field of bovine TB. Lindsay led the team that successfully tendered to deliver the initial TB Advisory Service contract and was the Project Manager responsible for day-to-day delivery of the service until 2020.

Lindsay now manages the VESBA project, a large-scale, farmer-led badger vaccination project in East Sussex. Lindsay has significant experience of managing diverse views in the field of bovine TB, and in particular, how these may impact on the wider deployment of badger vaccination in the future. Part of her role includes speaking with farmers about managing the risk of a TB breakdown, and the potential role that badger vaccination has to play.

In addition, through a role at Eville & Jones, Lindsay is the lead investigator for the Great Britain field trials of Cattle BCG Vaccine and companion DIVA (DST-F) testing.

With over 20 years' experience in the livestock sector, and as a partner in the family's suckler cow enterprise, Lindsay is able to draw upon her extensive, practical knowledge, and is always looking to find solutions that will make a difference for farmers.

Key stakeholder members

Rebecca Cavill, bTB lead for the British Cattle Veterinary Association

Rebecca hails from a beef suckler farming family in Somerset. Rebecca qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in 2010 and has worked in mixed and farm practice in North Devon ever since. She received her CertAVP in 2016 and most of her work is in the dairy side of the practice with interests in fertility, herd health and mastitis. She was elected on to the British Cattle Veterinary Association board in 2017 and is currently their lead on TB.

James Russell, President of the British Veterinary Association(BVA)

James is a 2002 Royal Veterinary College graduate and a post-graduate diploma holder in production animal and livestock medicine. He has over 17 years' experience working in mixed practice. In September 2018, he stepped down as a director of a large veterinary practice in Ashbourne to become an independent veterinary consultant. In 2022 he took up a part time post as a clinical associate professor in farm animal medicine at the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine.

Since serving as President of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) for 2020 to 2021, James has agreed to continue to represent the BVA at TB partnership.

Tom Rabbetts

Tom is the Head of Bovine TB for the NFU and has been involved in working on TB for the organisation the past 14 years. Tom comes from a livestock farming background with an

excellent understanding of the impact of the disease on farm, based in the South West he is responsible for ensuring the NFU's involvement in national policy development and delivery meets the needs of its members. Tom is involved with a wide range of activities supporting members and their businesses, from advice and practical support dealing with the disease on farm, to building the organisation's key policy asks. He is also involved in various eradication projects with farmers and stakeholders.

Government members

Ele Brown

Ele is the government's Senior Responsible Owner and Defra's Deputy Director of the Bovine TB Programme.

Andrew Soldan

Andrew is Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Director.

Steph Bird-Halton

Steph is Natural England's director for National Delivery, which includes Wildlife Licensing.